

PREVALENCE AND DETERMINANTS OF SPECTACLE NON-COMPLIANCE IN SCHOOL CHILDREN GIVEN SPECTACLES IN REFRACTION CAMPS

ABSTRACT

Aim

To study the prevalence and determinants of spectacle non-compliance at 6 to 12 months in school children given spectacles in refraction camps.

Materials and Methods

Rural school children who were given glasses at a subsidised rate in refraction camps were administered a questionnaire at 6 to 12 months from the date of issue of spectacles to determine the compliance rate and the reasons for non-compliance.

Results

Out of the 303 children who were administered the questionnaire, 144 students (47.5%) were found to be compliant to spectacles. Factors like age and sex were not significantly associated with spectacle compliance. The factors that could help predict compliance were unaided visual acuity in the better eye, parental education and the presence of a spectacle-wearing member in the family. The reasons for non-compliance were broken or lost glasses, peer pressure, parental concern, students' belief that they did not benefit from wearing spectacles and problems like headache and watering.

Conclusion

Lack of reliable refractive cut-offs and protocol to prescribe spectacles in children, absence of stress on quality optic dispensing and lack of awareness among children as well as parents about the visual benefits of wearing spectacles are the problems that need to be addressed in order to improve spectacle compliance among school children.

Keywords: spectacle, spectacle compliance, school camp, refraction camps, rural children, barriers to spectacle-wear